

1953

OFFICIAL NCAA

FOOTBALL

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Guide

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The Official Rules Book and Record Book of the
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

top assistant, who became Tennessee's coach; Bernie Witucki, who replaced Buddy Brothers at Tulsa; Phil Dickens, who moved from Wofford to Wyoming, and John Cherberg, who succeeded Odell.

Here, in capsule form, is the outlook by sections:

Midwest: Notre Dame, the upset king of '52, will again be the top independent, with a powerful ground game and experienced quarterbacking. Experts predict that Michigan State, No. 1 in the nation last season, will have to beat out Ohio State for the Big Ten title.

Oklahoma, despite heavy losses, is expected to continue its dominance of the Big Seven, and the University of Houston, rising swiftly into the ranks of the "big-time," will be favored to defend its Missouri Valley title successfully.

Southwest: A three-way battle is anticipated in this mysterious region, where the favorite has won only a handful of times in twenty years. The contenders: Rice, which won four conference games in a row at the end of last season; Texas, defending champion, and Baylor. SMU, switching from its wing and spread formations to the split T, is the dark horse.

West: Southern California produced the first Pacific Coast Conference Rose Bowl victory since the pact with the Big Ten was signed eight years ago, beating Wisconsin, 7 to 0. The Trojans are favored to win the Coast title again this fall. Next in line is UCLA, which has Paul Cameron returning to its backfield, followed by California and Washington. Among the independents, College of the Pacific should be strong. Utah is expected to rule the Mountain States (Skyline) Conference.

South: This section, which had one of its greatest seasons in '52, will be strong again. Georgia Tech has its starting backfield back and will be an odds-on choice to retain the Southeastern Conference crown. Tennessee and Alabama will challenge. Georgia is the "sleeper." West Virginia may lead the parade among the ten teams sticking with the Southern Conference. Duke is likely to top the newly formed seven-team Southern loop, which was still without a name as these lines went to press.

East: Princeton and Pennsylvania should be the dominant forces. Navy is expected to be the principal independent, as Army continues its slow climb back to national prominence.

NATIONAL RATINGS, 1936-1952

The Associated Press poll of sports writers, originated in 1936, annually determines the rating of the college grid powers, and the poll's No. 1 team is generally recognized as the national champion.

Counting 10 points for a first place rating, 9 points for second, and so on, Notre Dame is the 17-year leader with 85 points. The Irish won four national titles in that span.

In years prior to the writers' poll, the Rissman and Knute Rockne trophies, symbolic of the national title, were awarded annually from 1924 to 1936.

17 YEARS

1. Notre Dame (4)	85	1952—Mich. State
2. Michigan (1)	62	1951—Tennessee
3. Tennessee (1)	53	1950—Oklahoma
4. Army (2)	50	1949—Notre Dame
5. Minnesota (3)	40	1948—Michigan
6. Oklahoma (1)	40	1947—Notre Dame
7. Alabama	31	1946—Notre Dame
8. California	30	1945—Army
9. So. Calif.	25	1944—Army
10. Ohio State (1)	24	1943—Notre Dame
11. Duke	24	

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 1924-1952

1942—Ohio State	1932—Michigan
1941—Minnesota	1931—So. California
1940—Minnesota	1930—Notre Dame
1939—Texas A&M	1929—Notre Dame
1938—Texas Christian	1928—So. California
1937—Pittsburgh	1927—Illinois
1936—Minnesota	1926—Stanford
1935—So. Methodist	1925—Dartmouth
1934—Minnesota	1924—Notre Dame
1933—Michigan	